



GARS *News*

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March, 1995

The Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

Page 1

The PRESIDENT'S PEN

by Howard Gould, W4NVF

Welcome all you new members to GARS. We need your support in building one of the best radio clubs in the Gwinnett area. We are not the only radio club in Gwinnett, but we are most certainly the largest membership club, the only ARRL Special Services Club, the only one providing no code technician classes, and the only one providing Amateur licensing testing through it's own GARS sponsored VE team. In Gwinnett County.

There should be something of interest for everyone in GARS as we provide many outdoor activities to bring the membership together. With the good weather soon upon us, we will be working as a team to cover Bike Races, Ham Fest Flea Markets, Ham Fest Security, Public Schools, Civic Events, and Local

Radio demonstrations at various shopping malls.

On the Emergency Communications level, we work with ARES to provide the support for the radio operators needed in their coverage of local disaster events. We are the largest source of supply for local authorities who call on us from time to time for volunteer radio support. Our repeater WD4JXR is used for all emergency communications for ARES/GARS along with the GTS (Gwinnett Technical Society) 440 repeater whenever they declare it open for such use. Our repeater is always ready and open to all who need it's use for any emergency.

Our club will soon be in a position to increase it's range of communications with the addition of the Snellville 150 foot tower and repeater building. With

(Prez, continued on p.5)

Jack Herndon, KS4LS GARS

HAM OF THE MONTH

by Pickett Cummins, AD4S

The GARS Ham of the Month is Jack Herndon, KS4LS. Jack is originally from Sacramento, California and went to high school in San Jose and Willows. Jack was always interested in electronics and electricity and he and his friends played around with batteries, buzzers, switches and such.

Jack had a friend who got his novice license as WA6YQS and a friend's father was a ham, W6OLV. Both of these acquaintances were responsible for Jack's initial interest in amateur radio. Jack would like to have had his license back when he was even a sub teen but just couldn't get up enough gumption to get by the code. (by the way Jack, both of these two hams are still in the call book as extra class).

(HAM, continued on p.2)

"BIRTH"

of a NEWSLETTER

by Dean Matthews, AD4OD

Putting together a large monthly newsletter is a little like childbirth, (Not that I have any first-hand experience in childbirth, though I did see it done once) but the gestation period is only 30 days.

Conception occurs as soon as last months issue is "born", by copying it to a new directory, stripping out all the old articles, and updating the dates in the remaining boilerplate. I thought I would get smart one month and make several copies of this "embryo," (am I cloning?) but found out that too many things in it change month-to-month. Duping it too far in advance caused things like new phone numbers to become un-updated.

(Birth continued on p.6)

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society



Why are these men so happy? Is it because they were awarded the privilege of working their tails off for another year? Or did they just split a winning lottery ticket? Congratulations to our full slate of re-elected officers for 95/96: (clockwise from left) Secretary Ike, KE4GYM; President Howie, W4NVF; Treasurer Charles, WA4QYY Activities Mgr. David, KA4KKF; and V.P. Larry, KD4QFD. We must be paying these guys too much!

GARS News

GARS News is the official monthly organ of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the amateur radio art.

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If possible, submit *News* items in ASCII format by posting a private message to Dean Matthews on the **GARS** conference of the Scientific Atlanta BBS (806-7372), then use the Save Attached save command, which will prompt you to upload your ASCII file. Art can be accepted in TIFF or PCX format on IBM compatible disk.

Contact the Editor for odd format compatibility, or other means of transfer. Deadline for article submissions is the first Thursday of each month.

GARS News EDITOR

Dean Matthews, AD4OD

Editors Desk: 962-8941 Fax: 339-1394

E-Mail: AD4OD@aol.com

GARS NEWS is created on a MCC 486/DX2-66 computer running Lotus AMI Pro Word Processor for Windows under MSDOS 6.2 and Windows for Workgroups 3.11. The master copy is printed on a Canon LBP-4 Laser Beam printer and photocopied.

The **GARS** address is:
GWINNETT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 88
LILBURN, GA 30226

In keeping with the amateur spirit, permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of **GARS News** articles by other amateur club newsletters provided proper credit is given to the individual author and to **GARS News**. ♦

JOIN GARS

Membership dues for 1995-1996 are:

\$25.00 for Individual Memberships
\$35.00 for Family Memberships

Dues reduced for mid-year additions, see membership application for details, or...

Call Jack Herndon, KS4LS at 995-0438 for more information about joining **GARS**.

(HAM, continued from p.1)

Jack's other interests included the swim team (and I suspect girls).

After he finished high school, Jack went into the US Navy and interestingly enough struck for electronics technician just like David, KA4KKF. He was an E6 also and was primarily trained on the repair and maintenance of HF equipment.

One of his more interesting duty stations was Annapolis, Maryland where he worked with some VLF equipment which you may know is (was ?) used for underwater submarine communications. There were more than 100 transmitters at this site. The antenna system had been built in the 1930's and the ground system had significantly deteriorated by the time Jack got there. When he went to the basement of his billet to iron his whites, he could copy CW through the iron.

When President Nixon began pulling out of the Vietnam conflict, Jack (who had joined the Navy to avoid Vietnam) was sent to Vietnam as an advisor/instructor in electronic repair. He also was stationed at Guam at one time on a submarine tender. (apparently never ran across David in his VLF or sub tender activities).

When Jack was stationed at the Great Lakes Naval Station in North Chicago, he attended a USO Valentines dance in Milwaukee where he met his wife, Kathy. They have three sons who are 11, 13 and 16. (How would you like to be paying for that kind of automobile insurance..?)

After Jack mustered out of the Navy, he went to work for 3M Corporation in Milwaukee and worked in field service on their copy machines. He got involved in their electronic FAX program and was transferred to their headquarters in St. Paul, Minnesota and became an instructor. (for those who may not be aware, FAX is just Slow Scan TV on paper). When 3M formed a partnership with Harris in 1986, Jack was transferred to their Office in Atlanta. Harris later bought out 3M and Jack's unit became part of their Lanier Office Products business unit.

Jack is currently involved in hardware quality assurance (as opposed to

GARS GROWS GREATLY BY GOLLY!

Seven new members were voted in at the February meeting!

Welcome these Hams to GARS:

Pauline Tipton-Estes, KE4DYW
(T) from Clarkston

Edward McCaffrey, KE4OGS
(G) from Duluth

Chris A. Rothe, KE4UMF
(T) from Auburn

David E. Gile Jr., KG5TX
(A) from Lawrenceville

T. Michael McFadden, N8NYH
(T) from Buford

David H. Taylor, NN5C
(E) from Lilburn

Howard Estes, WB4GUD
(A) from Clarkston

Welcome these new members at the next club meeting or on the air! -ED ♦

AD4PZ's software work) and makes numerous trips to Japan to check out new products that are just going into production. These trips are the reason that Jack has found time to study for his amateur radio license exams.

While reading the Atlanta Journal/Constitution, Jack read an article by Bill Husted "Techno Buddy" regarding amateur radio. Bill talked about the new no code license and the fact that you could have the equivalent of a cellular telephone with an HT and a repeater with a phone patch. This reminded Jack of his interest in amateur radio from his high school days and the fact that he could get a license without the code.

So in June, 1993, Jack passed his elements 2 and 3A and qualified for the new no code technician's license and 16 weeks later (can you believe that ?) he

(Ham, Continued on p. 4)

AD4OD Wins GARS SKN Contest

by J. Pickett Cummins, AD4S

I missed the cut off for the last newsletter, but wanted to follow up on the home-brew straight key contest from last New Years Eve.

Dean, AD4OD's "Tappen-Zee" key was the hands down winner of the voting at the January GARS meeting. Dean's key was constructed from his son's Erector Set which he had received for Christmas. Matt was very patient in waiting until after the judging in late January to finally be able to use his new toy. The key was a work of art as those of you who saw it know and the name was equally fitting. Both were a

continuing commentary on the creativity of our newsletter editor.

The second place entry was "Copper Finger" by Bob, WB4RPM. For those of you who missed the meeting, it is quite a testament to Bob's electronic construction prowess to say that it was amazing how professional a couple of pieces of copper water pipe and wire can look. I also understand that Bob's wife was really glad when she could flush again on New Years Eve.

The other keys were also quite creative and I suspect we may have to have categories next year. Only one award was made this year for the "favorite".

Of particular note were the three keys displayed by Joe, AD4PZ. His "Hot Wheels" auto suspension key and his "M2" brass Curtis house key were extremely well done as was his hacksaw blade entry. Another really great piece

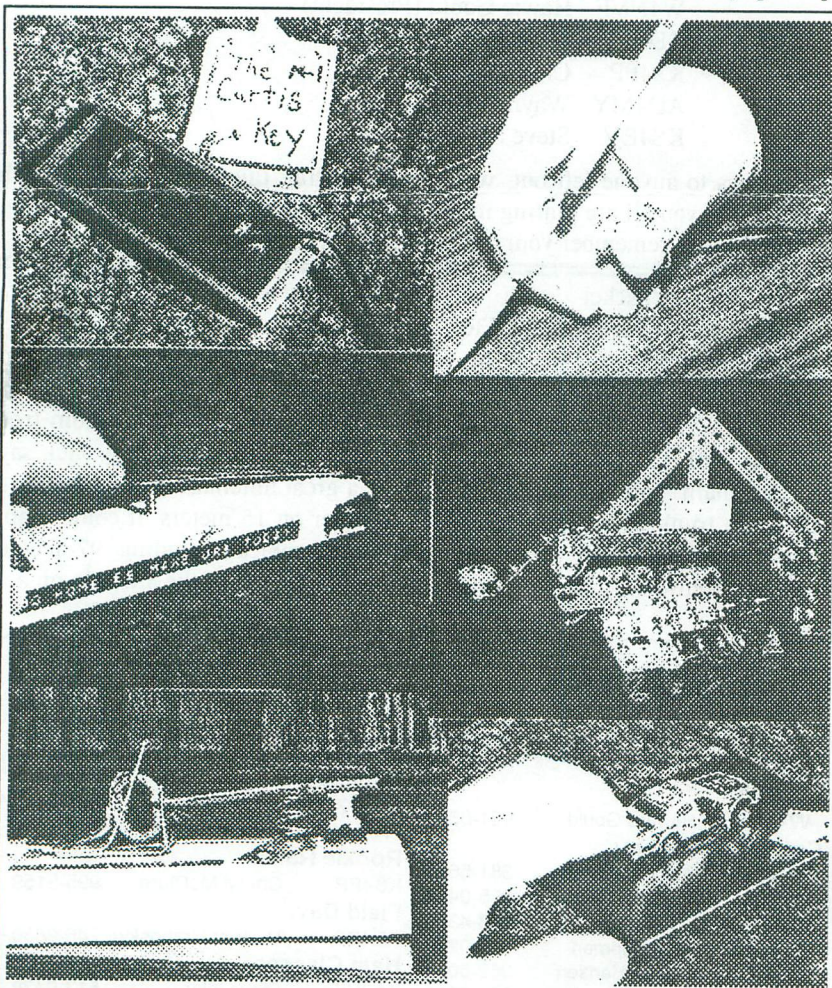
of work was done by Vince, AE4CQ. This key was made from flat brass stock and a really, dyed in the wool skeleton key. Nice job Vince!!

Another unique device was displayed by Cheryl, KE4JKM. Cheryl (being the efficient person that she is) created a dual purpose logging and keying mechanism from a pencil, a thumb tack and a large rubber band. Her keying method was similar to "Copper Key" where touching of the thumb and index finger were required to key the rig. (I wonder if she can key and log at the same time..?).

Someone was nice enough to cast one vote for the writer's "Ruler of the Bands" which was made from 18 inch steel computer forms ruler. It was at least the longest key on display. The other computer oriented key was displayed by Steve, KS4EV, and was made from an accessory computer slot cover mounted on a wooden base. Unfortunately, Howie left his Potter/Brumfield relay key at home and we will have to see it at some future event. We also did not get a chance to see Steve, AD4LY's creation but there is always the next time.

So we are already looking forward to the next SKN even and as I mentioned in the last article on this subject, are thinking about other ways to spice up the competition. Old gear..?, QRP..? Home-brew rigs..? If you have some ideas, let us know.

See you at SKN '95. ♦



Shown above (clockwise, from top left) are some of the GARS SKN contest entries: AD4PZ's "Curtis" key; KS4PP's combination "Thumbtack" key/logger; AD4OD's winning "Tappen Zee" key; AD4PZ's "Car Key"; AE4CQ's "Skeleton" key; and KS4EV's computer slot cover key. We can't wait to see what creativity the GARS SKN 95 brings!

FOR SALE

Yaesu FT-11 2m HT with Hot Rod antenna, extra 9v battery, chargers, mobile power supply and mag mount antenna. Call Jim Hawkins, KE4KHV at 271-7156 and strike up a deal.

Drake L4-B 80 thru 10m HF 1.5kW linear amplifier. (Pair of 3-500z's). Asking \$600.00, in Gainesville call Grant Haynes, KB5GOM at 404/503-7988 and put some fire in your wire!

B&W all band HF antenna kit, model AC/1.8-30 for \$50.00; MFJ-108B Dual Clock for \$10.00; MFJ-202B RF Noise Bridge for \$35.00; Van Gordon D-40 40m dipole with balun for \$10.00; Heathkit HD-1250 solid state Grid Dip Meter w/coils for 1.6-250 MHz and case for \$25.00. Call Dean Matthews, AD4OD at 962-8941 and wheel and deal.

(HAM, continued from p.2)

had his first call sign, KE4EMA (eleven meter amateur or is it extra marital affair...?). In December, 1993, Jack passed his 5 wpm code test and element 3B written (*general*) and was ready for HF.

He also discovered a couple of hams at work. Joe, AD4PZ, actually worked for Jack at the time and he discovered that the fellow just next to him was Steve, KS4EV (KD4WAK, WAKO at the time). Jack borrowed a Swan 350 from Dean, AD4OD but could never get it to work on 10 meters. He then got a mint condition TS820S with matching speaker and VFO from the writer and finally got on the HF bands.

After a couple of more trips to Japan, Jack was ready for another test and passed element 4A written (Advanced) and failed the 13 wpm code test in July, 1994. In December, 1994 (one day before the element 3B certificate expired) Jack passed the 13 wpm code test and was now eligible to enjoy all the privileges of an Advanced Class Amateur Radio Operator. Jack said he used everything he could find to get the code speed up. He used Super Morse and Morse Academy on his computer and the ARRL tapes. He thinks that one thing that helped at the end was to concentrate on the 15 wpm tapes using Farnsworth character speed at 18 wpm. He also felt that his "on-the-air" activity was also very helpful.

By the way, did you know that the word AMATEUR does not mean unskilled...? It means unpaid and comes from the Latin word Amo, Amas, Amat and means "for the love of".

Jack works packet with a BAYCOM modem. He has a Yaesu 530 dual band HT at his home QTH that his mostly used now for packet on the DX Cluster. He has a Yaesu 5200 dual band rig in his car with the remote display and has the main part of the radio mounted in the trunk of his car. (This installation caused the writer to go out and buy a Kenwood 733A dual

bander.... I am going to quit looking at other people's new equipment.)

Jack uses a 10 meter HF antenna for his home 2 meter work (SWR is 1.5 to 1) and has an all band Windom from Antennas West for his HF rig. Jack says this is a great antenna and only needs to use a tuner on 15 meters. It comes completely assembled including 97 feet of coax which is part of the antenna on a

(Ham, Continued on p. 5)

Code Practice Participants

by Steve Sims, KS4EV

February was a great month for code practice on the repeater! Participants were as follows:

Call	Name	#Sessions	WPM
KE4QFV	David	7	5,8,13
KD4KAI	John	4	5
KS4PP	Cheryl	4+	5,8,13
KS4GQ	Jerry	1+	20
AK8E	Jim	1+	20
AD4S	Pickett	1+	13
AD4PZ	Joe	1+	20
AD4MI	Charles	1+	20

Perfect Copy (5 min)

Call	Name	Wpm	Date
KE4QFV	David	8	Thurs, March 2, 1995

Code Practice Net Controls for February:

Call	Name
W4NVF	Howie Gould (President)
AD4LY	Steve Burel
KS4PP	Cheryl McClure
AD4MY	Wayne Wright
KS4EV	Steve Sims

My apologies to anyone left out, we are just starting this column to reflect the hard work that you all are putting in. Please let me know if you were left out and we will be sure to remember your accomplishment in next months issue. ♦

Contact GARS

OFFICERS 1995-1996

President:	W4NVF	Howard Gould	921-8362
Vice Pres:	KD4QFD	Larry Osborne	381-5611
Secretary:	KE4GYM	Ike Chapman	339-8123
Treasurer:	WA4QYY	Charles Evans	448-0930
Activities:	KA4KKF	David Adcock	963-5767

COMMITTEES

Editor:	AD4OD	Dean Matthews	962-8941
Trustee:	KO4ZS	Paul Bennett	206-0215
Awards:	AD4MI	Charles Robison	923-3610

COMMITTEES, cont'd

Repeater:	W4NVF	Howard Gould	921-8362
Control Operators:	KD4QFD	Larry Osborne	381-5611
	KS4LS	Jack Herndon	995-0438
	AD4PZ	Joe Biddle	963-4316
	KE4GYM	Ike Chapman	339-9231
	KD4KCR	Duane Hansen	962-6086
	W4NVF	Howie Gould	921-8362
	KA4EMV	Bob DeVeau	923-3963
	K4HRB	Ron Davidson	466-4932
Membership:	KS4LS	Jack Herndon	995-0438
Publicity:	AD4PZ	Joe Biddle	963-4316
	W4WKP	Johnny Fearon	466-4038
Rookie Radio:	KS4PP	Cheryl McClure	995-5159
Field Day:	AE4CQ	Vincent Hrabosky	246-9630
Ham Classes:	KA9UIE	Steve Idler	513-0428
HF/VHF/UHF Awards Manager:	KE4GGP	Don Ennest	923-4851
DXCC Awards Checker:	AF4Y	Frank Deak	978-6546

(HAM, continued from p.4)

couple of bands. This antenna is only 132 long from end to end.

As you may know, Jack is presently the Membership Chairman for GARS and brings his laptop to the meetings to keep the club records up to date in real time. He has really set the performance bar high for this activity since he also keeps the speed dial entries up to date in the repeater controller. Jack is looking forward to Field Day and a couple of more trips to Japan so he can pass his 20 WPM code test. He says the Extra written will not be a problem.

If you don't know Jack, be sure to look him up at the next GARS activity. GARS is fortunate to have an ambassador for amateur radio like Jack as a member and we all appreciate his contributions to the club's well being. ♦

(Prez, continued from p.1)

the testing of both Lawrenceville and Snellville sites for coverage, meaning that one or the other sites will become the main repeater site, with Lawrenceville being a heavyweight because of all it's backup potential, we should be on track for having one of our repeaters (the Mark 4) on at the main site, and the old repeater on as a backup at the other site along with a 440 downlink to either Lawrenceville or Snellville.

What this means for the club is the ability to increase coverage in more directions than we now have and filling many shadows. There will be an identical antenna at Snellville such as the one we now have in Lawrenceville. We can concentrate our signal by shifting the stacked dipoles around so that we get a 90 degree pattern back into Gwinnett County rather than sending a signal to the east.

With the new tower at Snellville, you will see a dramatic increase in signal from the 440 repeater and the packet digipeater. I am looking forward to the changes as well as all of you so keep up. The interest and give us the support we need to carry out this project.

Spring is just around the corner, and we are all waiting for that good weather so we can get outdoors and do things like antenna fixing or even

(Prez, continued on p.6)

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

Monthly Meeting Minutes

February 16, 1995

In attendance: President Howie Gould, W4NVF; Vice President Larry Osborne, KD4QFD; Secretary Ike Chapman, KE4GYM; Treasurer Charles Evans, WA4QYY; Activities Manager David Adcock, KA4KKF.

The meeting was called to order at 19:39 local time by President Gould, W4NVF, at Southern Seafood and Steaks in Duluth.

David Adcock, KA4KKF introduced the speaker for the evening, Larry Flegle, N4TMW who made a presentation on antique and classic radios.

After the program and a break, the business meeting was opened by President Gould with introductions of club members and visitors with a total of 51 persons signing the log sheet.

The minutes for the January meeting were approved as published in the newsletter.

The treasurers report was given by Charles Evans, WA4QYY.

President Gould announced the candidates for office as:

President: Howie Gould, W4NVF; Vice President: Larry Osborne, KD4QFD; Secretary: Ike Chapman, KE4GYM; Treasurer: Charles Evans, WA4QYY and Cheryl McClure, KE4JKM; Activities Manager: David Adcock, KA4KKF; The floor was opened for other nominations and none were offered. A motion was made and seconded to accept the unopposed officers as stated by President Gould, the motion passed without opposition. The position of Treasurer was then decided by a vote of those club members present with Charles Evans, WA4QYY receiving a majority of the votes.

President Gould then made the following appointments with acceptance of the appointment by the appointee:

Newsletter Editor: Dean Matthews, AD4OD; Membership Chairman: Jack Herndon, KS4LS; Public Relations Chairman: Joe Biddle, AD4PZ; Field Day Chairman: Vince Hrabosky, AE4CQ; Rookie Radio: Cheryl McClure, KE4JKM; Ham Classes: Steve Idler, KA9UIE; VHF/UHF/HF Awards Manager: Don Ennest, KE4GGP; DXCC Awards Checker: Frank Deak, AF4Y; Repeater Advisory Committee: Eddie Foust, WD4JEM; Bob Deveau, KA4EMV; Brian McCarthy, NX90; and Wayne Wright, AD4MY.

Larry Osborne, KD4QFD reported on Ham Radio '95. Larry said that he had filled most of the slots open for working the flea market and would be calling for volunteers to fill the last remaining open slots. Larry also discussed the progress of the tower crew and announced that Charles Robison, AD4ML had volunteered to put together some contest for GARS members.

Eddie Foust, WD4JEM reported on the repeater maintenance efforts and asked for volunteers to chair and staff four maintenance work crews. One crew is needed to replace and repair the roofing on the generator building at the Lawrenceville site, another is needed to clean and re-rack the storage batteries at Lawrenceville, another is needed to test the generator at Lawrenceville and a final crew is needed to add additional grounding for the Lawrenceville site.

Vince Hrabosky, AE4CQ reported on the status of field day preparations. Vince said that the executive committee had allocated funds for food for field day and that he would be asking for a volunteer to chair the food committee at the March meeting. Vince also will asking for equipment donations for field day at the March meeting.

President Gould asked for a volunteer to chair the GARS picnic committee and Marty Fowler, KE4MLH stepped forward to fill this position.

President Gould announced that in accordance with the revised bylaws the new Board of Directors would be composed of the immediate past three Presidents, Johnny Fearon, W4WKP; Duane Hanson, KD4KCR; and Pat Runkle, KC4DOO. If any of these decline to serve then a replacement is to be appointed by President Gould and confirmed by the executive committee.

Jack Herndon, KS4LS presented seven applications for membership in GARS. A motion was made and seconded to accept the applications as presented by Jack, the motion was passes without opposition. The new GARS members are: Pauline Tipton-Estes, KE4DYW; Edward McCaffrey, KE4OGS; Chris A. Rothe, KE4UMF; David E. Gile Jr., KG5TX; T. Michael McFadden, N8NYH; David H. Taylor, NN5C; Howard Estes, WB4GUD

The HRO gift certificate was won by Vince Hrabosky, Jr., KE4DYX.

The meeting was adjourned at 21:20 local time. ♦

QUA

1st Tuesday,

Metro Atlanta Telephone Pioneers
Old Hickory House on Chamblee-Dunwoody Rd. in Dunwoody. Dutch dinner is at 6:30PM, followed by meeting. TI-145.41-

1st Wednesday - HamWatch

Shoney's 11690 Alpharetta Hwy., Roswell (about 2 1/2 miles North of Holcomb Bridge Rd across from North Fulton Hospital) Dinner at 6:30PM. Meeting is at 7:30 PM

1st Thursday

N.E. Georgia Amateur Radio Club
Jefferson Civic Center, off Memorial Dr. toward Winder from Jefferson. Meeting is at 6:30PM. TI-147.225+

1st Thursday - Atlanta Radio Club

Kitteredge Magnet School, North Druid Hills Rd. and Briarcliff. 6:00PM. Meeting is at 7:30PM TI-146.82-

2nd Wednesday

North Fulton Radio League

Cherokee Cattle Company, 11208 Alpharetta Hwy. Dinner at 6:00PM. Meeting at 7:30PM TI-145.47-

2nd Thursday

Alford Memorial Radio Club

Elks Lodge on Memorial Drive. Dinner at 6:00PM Meeting at 7:30PM. TI-146.76-

2nd Saturday

East Atlanta LAN

Scott Blvd Baptist Church in Decatur. Meeting is at 10:00AM. TI-145.41-

3rd Thursday

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

Southern Seafood & Steaks, 3560 Buford Hwy, Just north of Pleasant Hill Rd.. Dinner begins around 6:00PM, and last through the program and meeting which follow. TI-147.075+ ♦

(Prez, continued from p.5)

raising a new one. This is the time of year when we all get the itch to try out new things and it's the perfect time of the year to do it. If you're interested in antennas and such, get together with Rookies Radio Cheryl, KE4JKM (now KS4PP - ED). She will be running a few new things soon so get on the bandwagon.

You can help support the club and shout out to everybody that you are a GARS member by purchasing a jacket, shirt and hat, from Jim Baker, KR4XY. He is taking orders for all of the GARS items that have the GARS logo on them, and you can add your name and call sign for a couple of dollars more. If you don't reach Jim directly, leave word on his answering machine.

The club meeting place is just great. Glen Mulheim the manager/owner of *Southern Seafood and Steaks* has done an outstanding job of preparing his place for our meetings. The food is cooked to perfection and one only needs to try it once to concur with my own personal findings. Your support is needed at the meeting as it is through the ones who have dinner that our meeting place is semi secure.

I know of no better place to hold our monthly meetings than the one we have. If someone has a permanent place at low cost that the club can use then get in touch with any officer of the club. I am also still looking for an alternate place through the help of a committee which I am ready to appoint as soon as someone speaks up. Any takers? In the meantime, please come to eat and have some good fellowship.

Sunday, February 26th we had a battery cleaning and relocating party take place at the Lawrenceville repeater site. Thanks to Joe, AD4PZ, Toshi, AD4ZZ, Rob, KE4VWO, Sid, KR4XW, John, KE4KPV, and Dennis, KE4IKO. A job well done guys.

The portable tower and trailer that the club has been working on is really coming along, and looks like it will be a reality real soon. With the addition of a small beam and rotator, this unique piece of radio gear will be ready to tow to outdoor events. I can't wait for the

day we use it for it surely will be a sight to behold.

For those of you who missed the election of club officers, the new officers for 95/96 remain the same with the exception of the Newsletter Editor and Club Trustee who under the amended bylaws are no longer officers.

The revised bylaw state the past three presidents will be our directors, which would be Johnny, W4WKP, Duane, KD4KCR, and Pat, KC4DOO if they accept the positions. The Secretary is sending them an invitation to join us at our first Executive Meeting.

Don't forget to renew your ARRL membership through the club. If you want to join the ARRL, you need to do it through the club. You can do it at the next meeting - we have the forms except for the renewal form which you have to bring to give Charles, WA4QYY the Treasurer.

With all that in mind, I think it's time for me to sign off for this month and wish everyone good DX'ing.

73 Howie W4NVF

A Not Very Funny Production ■

(Birth continued from p.1)

Throughout the ensuing month. I try to work on it all along, so there is not so much to do at the end. Updating the Hamfest Calendar, checking for changes in the Test Session Information, editing the Local Area Meeting information, and putting in new ads and removing expired ones are all monthly housekeeping things I can do early.

Then as articles filter in from our authors and columnists, (sometimes even prior to the deadline!), I edit them as separate files. Some things, like the meeting minutes, can be placed in a stationary box, the rest of the newsletter will flow around it. But the bulk of the newsletter has to be formed from the front page on, to "fit".

This throughout-the-month work could be thought of as the newsletter's pre-natal period. But before I know it, it is the first Thursday of the month... the deadline for article submission. I usually figure this out when I arrive home from a trip (I travel a lot in my work) on a Friday afternoon and find my answering

(Birth continued on p.7)

(Birth continued from p.1)

machine blinking madly away. Messages here tell me to check the BBS, check my Internet mailbox, look under the front porch, and "call-me-and-I'll-bring-it-over". A couple times I even found a whole article dictated on the answering machine. Believe me, if you are going to have problems as an Editor, these are the kind to have! Active contributors!

So the birthing process begins with a Friday night marathon editing session. If you ever find me short tempered, irrational, incoherent, rude and more obnoxious than usual, check your calendar and see if it isn't the weekend after the first Thursday of the month. By now I am in *serious* labor!

Now is the time Murphy runs rampant. Computer glitches occur, laser printer toner cartridges run out, the BBS won't stay connected and the Internet garbles a key article. I turn my office upside down looking for a diskette that was "right there" all month, only to find it right where I had moved it to for safe keeping.

Joe, AD4PZ a.k.a. the "Scan-Man" has made the mistake of coming over to bring me some scanned photos on more than one of these Friday nights, only to find me stomping, cursing and somewhat violent. I could tell he noticed, because the second time - he fed me the pictures on the end of a long stick from outside my window. I seem to recall handing my wife a glass of water in much the same way when she was in labor with my daughter.

About 2:00AM I go to bed and pass out. My son wakes me up early on Saturday and is quick to remind me about where I promised to take him that day, so in the evening I begin again and in one final big push I spell check the whole thing one last time, and get a copy out of the laser printer. Again about 2:00AM I go to bed and pass out, but the child is born!

The next morning I get up early and read it over coffee. A few minor errors appear as I read, but a few

quick keystrokes make these problems go away, and with a couple of reprinted pages I hold in my hands a precious little infant. Then I have to do what no parent ever wants to... I have to give it away! Joe, AD4PZ and Jack, KS4LS take my child off to clone (photocopy), stamp and mail it to all our readers.

The next couple weeks I am the proud papa. People comment on how nice my child looks and how much they like it. Imperfections show up, like they do in all children - a typo here, a transposed phone number there, but a new

parent is blinded from such things. It might be a slightly deformed child, but it is mine all the same.

Then nature does a wonderful thing. It makes me forget the pain I just went through so I will go on to do it again. Sound Familiar?

If *you* would like to experience the wonder of birth give me a call. I would love to have a Guest Editor now and then to give myself and our readers a little break, and let someone else share in the experience. ♦

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RAMBLINGS FROM A NEW HAM - AND OTHER STUFF

by Rick Curtis, KE4VDL

Having joined GARS last month and passing the Tech tests a week later I thought I would offer some rambling thoughts and observations. Like my five year old, I too have a rubber ducky now.

On January 8th there was an article in the Atlanta paper about ham radio. I visited the store mentioned (HRO) the next day and spent two hours looking around. I didn't know then that I had contracted a disease - and the cure required a weekly visit back with plastic money in hand.

There was this flyer on the counter entitled: "Become a Ham Radio Operator." It indicated they actually thought I could become a ham if I studied and went to the class. "AT MY AGE" I thought. NAW, couldn't be.

Sooooooo..... I bought the book required for the test. Studied that puppy for three hours a day for a few weeks. Some guy named "Howie" was there when I took the test. He musta felt sorry for me cuz I passed that test. Then this darn disease sprang up. Back to HRO for my rubber ducky. And last week too, back to HRO for a mobile rig. Does this EVER end?

Point being is that flyer on the counter. I am now a member here and have a ticket and two ham rigs BECAUSE OF THAT FLYER. To get our group to grow even faster these flyers could be put in other places, like hobby shops, gun stores, grocery store bulletin boards, or wherever.

Young people. I love 'em. School displays, or demo's would be great. Get one teenager hooked and he or she will bring in two buddy's in a year. I'm going to put in a day at the school in Monroe in April to do my part in this direction.

Giving away a years' membership upon passing the test after taking the class is another great idea you are using. I can just hear the rest too. "And a set of Ginsu knives, plus if you hurry....."

Anything to publicize our hobby will help us keep frequency's, gain members and new friends. More people to talk to on the radio. I can fold Ham Radio into my love of 4 wheel drives and muddin' too. I've got a 7/8 whip on my newer 4x4 already. Same as to my love of camping and hiking. That HT or mobile in the camp at night, hmmm.... I am even eyeing this computer too. This thing runs 24 hours a day. I'll get it working with Ham Radio this year if I can see how it's done.

See, I'm not going to give up any of my present loves for Ham Radio. If I had these radio's five years ago, I would not have this cel phone with the associated bills each month.

I took a teenager from my neighborhood to my farm in South Georgia last summer to shoot guns all day. That day the rain did not stop and the big floods happened. (Montezuma) It would have been very reassuring to have a ham radio with me that night. We spent 9 hours on dirt roads in my four wheel drive trying to get to civilization.

I will NEVER forget that kid in his cutoff's and rubber boots after dark wading through thigh deep water in all my flood lights trying to find a path to drive as the roads washed out under us twice. (Yes I bent it that night) Marty could have fixed it if I'd known him then. We were stranded for three days too. Ya never know.

Ham Radio! It's not just for drive time anymore!

(No, Rick, we're certain HRO would be happy to report that the spending never ends. -ED) ♦

GARS AWARDS

by Larry Osborne, KD4QFD

Coming soon..... to your wall..... your own special GARS award!

Charles, AD4MI, has agreed to be the Special Awards and Contest Manager. Gwinnett Amateur Radio Spirit shines again!

Charles is planning to do many things. We could have GARS certificates for WAS - 2 meter simplex contacts - and many more. We could have our own GARS contests!

Charles will be happy to receive your help in this endeavor, so give him a call. ♦

ROOKIE RADIO NOTES

by Cheryl McClure, KS4PP

Opportunities abound this month for improving your radio skills. On March 11 we will have our first ever DF class (Direction Finding.... as in Foxhunts) in the parking lot at the Red Cross building on Hi Hope Road from 10 AM to 2 PM.

Please let me know you plan to attend. This will be an outdoor class, so if the weather does not cooperate, I need to be able to call you and let you know the re-scheduled date. Let's hope for sunshine.

Our Packet Class had to be postponed until March. Again, please give me a call if you would like to attend. Once we have a list of people who are interested, it will be easy to schedule a date that suits everyone.

Since our club now has a 440 repeater, but not everyone has that capability, maybe you would like to build your own. Marty, KE4MLH, has suggested a kit building class for 440 (or 220 if you prefer) radios. If you are interested, we can order the kits together and save on shipping. Perhaps President Howie, W4NVF, will be kind enough to revive HowieLab and guide us in building these kits. All we need to get started is a list of interested folks. I was in HowieLab #1 where we built a signal tracer. As long as you take it step by step, it really is not hard and it is loads of fun. Call me soon to sign up and lets get rolling.

CALL ME, CALL ME, CALL ME at 995-5159. If I'm not in, my answering machine will be glad to take a message. These activities are for you. Don't be shy. Join in and have a ball. ♦

HAM TAGS

According to the tag office, current holders of ham tags don't need to apply for a new one until next year when the new design will come out. Those who don't have and want a ham tag have until July 31, 1995 on the MV-9 form, available from the tag office. You order them now, and then get them when next years tags come out. ♦

HAM RADIO 95

by Larry Osborne, KD4QFD

April 7, 8, and 9 - the BIG week-end. Perhaps the making of history as the first HAM RADIO hamfest kicks off. The hamfest is to benefit Scottish Rite Hospital and several ham radio projects.

Boneyard, flea market, commercial vendors, and forums you won't believe! All there - waiting for you.

Doors open Friday, April 7, at 1 PM. We have tickets available at discount prices, so get yours from Ike (the secretary) or pay the door price later on.

GARS is one of over 20 co-sponsoring clubs - come and experience...

"THE EVENT" of 1995.

WORK GARS

REPEATERS

2-Meter FM repeater 147.075 MHz +600
70-cm FM 444.525 MHz acc. tone-156.7

TELEPHONE BBS

GARS Conference in Sci-Atl BBS 806-7372

6-METER BEACON

WA4IOB 6 Meter Beacon at 50.075 MHz

PACKET

WD4JXR-6 / SNELLV Packet
Node/Digipeater 145.03 MHz

SWAP, WANTED and SELL NET

Tuesdays at 8:00PM on the
GARS Repeater. 147.075 MHz

MORSE CODE PRACTICE

An interactive Morse Code practice session follows the 8:00PM Tuesday night net on the GARS repeater, and on Thursdays at 9:00PM.

12/95

ARRL PRESIDENT HOSPITALIZED

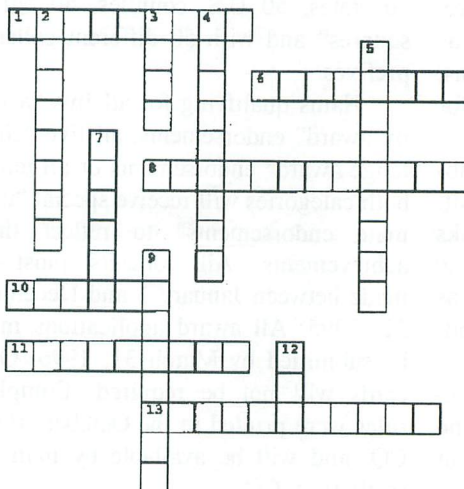
According to the ARRL letter, Vol. 14, No. 3 ARRL President George S. Wilson, W4OYI, suffered a stroke on February 11 while in Washington, DC on League business. At ARRL Letter press time, his condition was still being evaluated. Send well wishes, cards and the like to him c/o the ARRL main address. ♦

WHO WAS FIRST?

Most folks believe KDKA in Pittsburgh was the first commercial AM station in the country. A recent PBS special we saw reinforced that notion.

But according to a report by Lou Schneider N6YMQ, there was a thriving commercial station in San Jose, CA ten or more years before government radio regulation began. Dr. Charles Herrold went on the air in 1909 using a crude spark transmitter.

When formal call letters were assigned it became 6XE, later KQW and today is KCBS San Francisco. ♦



ACROSS

DOWN

1. A series of dits and dahs.
2. Control person of an operating station.
3. Feedline with center conductor.
4. A way to go; in what
5. Unit of measure where wave oscillations are counted in time.
6. RF Transmissions that BYTE! or has bytes.
7. When RF is propagated out the antenna. Press FTI to
8. G signal for a conversation.
9. Type of antenna you won't drink.
10. Allows a mismatched antenna to operate off frequency.
11. Device that will "clean" a signal to the users preference.
12. An antenna that will operate in three different bands.
13. Audio pickup device for your voice.

Crossword courtesy of Joe Biddle AD4PZ, answers on page 11

12/95

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HF PERSONALITIES

by Larry Osborne, KD4QFD

You can run across some interesting people on HF. For some reason, folks on HF are more willing to talk of their experiences, if you are willing to ask the right questions.

Such a gentleman is WA6WJR, Mike, who lives on the slopes of Mt. Shasta in California. We talked one afternoon on 15 meters. Mike is a semi-retired mountain guide. Mike describes his home location as a "3 red light county." His home is up the hill from the nearest town, so he can always slide down to town, but getting back up the hill to get home can be an adventure, even for a mountain guide. His wife was the editor for some local publications, but now she writes free lance for magazines.

Mike's adventurers include climbing Mt. Shasta (of course), Danali (Mt. McKinley in Alaska), and several peaks in Tibet, though he never apparently made it to Mt. Everest or K-2. He has also written several books about the adventures of being a mountain guide.

When we talk on 2 meters, we generally talk about our normal trials and tribulations. HF opens your world, your ears, and your mind.

Try it, you'll like it. ♦

CQ ANNOUNCES 50TH ANNIVERSARY AWARD SERIES

CQ magazine has announced a new series of operating awards for hams and SWL's, commemorating CQ's 50th anniversary this year.

They claim that any active ham will be able to earn at least one of these awards!

According to the press announcement we saw, the basic "CQ/50" award is earned by contacting 50 different hams during 1995, and submitting a log with the required information. There will also be band/mode endorsements and for contacting hams in 50 countries, 50 states, 50 U.S. counties, 50 "grid-squares" and with 50 different callsign prefixes.

Hams qualifying for all five "activity award" endorsements, all five "challenge award" endorsements or all ten in both categories will receive special "ultimate endorsements" to reflect their achievements. All contacts must be made between January 1 and December 31, 1995. All award applications must be submitted by March 31, 1996. QSL cards will not be required. Complete rules were printed in the October, 1994, CQ, and will be available by mail directly from CQ.

For a copy of the rules, along with official logs and entry forms, send a large self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) to CQ/50 Awards, 76 N. Broadway, Hicksville, NY 11801. There is no fee for the awards. ♦

THE OTHER GUYS PREFERENCES

by Judy Roush, AA7UC

Tuning the bands in search of CW DX this morning, I heard and African station call CQ. Within seconds he had a pileup. I listened for a few minutes and, following his clear cues, prepared to exchange only basic information.

But many stateside callers failed to pick up on his operating preference. They prolonged their QSOs with long-winded dissertations. After each "BK TU" the DX station consistently replied, "I will QSL via the bureau. Tnx and 73."

Please remember to listen before you answer CQs, and pay attention to what the other guy says. Some won't be as patient. Never forget that the person on the other end may not understand much English. Don't assume the other guy is fluent in English unless you're working an English-speaking country. It's ironic that those long dissertations, which waste everyone's time are often lost on the very person to whom they were directed.

Also remember that you are a guest of the calling station. The African station may have understood English very well. Maybe he just didn't feel like rag-chewing. Since he called CQ, he had a right to whatever kind of QSO he wanted. So listen; learn the caller's preferences. Then jump into the breach.

From the Kachina ARC "Kachina QSO" via the ARNS Bulletin - Ed. ♦

3/95

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ARES News

by Pat Runkle, KC4DOO

The membership meeting of 2/14/1995 went well with new members attending as well and some familiar faces from the fall meeting. A number of hand-outs were given to those attending. Some were the same as the fall papers but others were new plus the roster was available. If you would like a copy of these papers, please send a SASE 8x11 envelope with \$1.00 postage attached and I will forward papers to you. Those with a FAX number can just drop a card or tell me your fax number on the net, and I can send them out in the evenings. Also, will try to make the March meeting and have some of those items there for ARES members only.

Members missed an excellent program given by KM4DY, Tom Mills on National Traffic System (NTS) and some message handling. This was very informative for all plus Tom had some good hand-outs. With NTS you can learn how to handle messages properly and you don't have to be a member of ARES or GARS to take part in this activity. If you are serious about message handling and need further information on the NTS please let me know on the net.

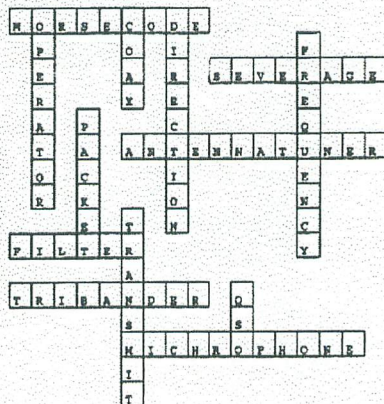
Our ARES net is on Wednesday evenings at 8:00P.M on the GARS repeater (147.075). Those that attended the membership meetings in the fall and

February are ready to handle Net Control and Alternate Net Control. We hope some of you will Give it a try for an evening.

ARES patches for a black baseball style hat are available to order for \$1.00 each. You can give me the money at the March GARS meeting or let me know how many you want at net time.

Our severe weather season is upon us., so tune in to the nets for information on weather related topics.

To contact me for information concerning ARES or any related topic, call or fax me at 945-6356. ♦



Answers for crossword on p.9.

TWO SCHOOLS FORM HAM CLUBS

by Dean Matthews, AD4OD

Two Ham Clubs have recently been formed at local high schools. Collins Hill HS has formed CHARC (contact Eric Koperda, KE4HTE) and N. Gwinnett has begun BARC (Bulldog AR -contact Evan Wiley, KE4KLX). These fellows can be reached via the GARS conference on the Sci-Atl BBS. As start-up clubs they will surely be looking for equipment and possibly some Elmering.

Contact and support these fine young people. There is no greater calling for a club such as ours than to help new hams start off right. ♦

GARS MOBILE ANTENNA TRAILER MOVING RIGHT ALONG (in a manner of speaking) by Larry Osborne, KD4QFD

Our mobile tower is shaping up to be something to be proud of. Several folks have put some long hours into this project - and the results show.

Tower straightening by KE4MLH (Marty), KE4REB (Dave), AF4Y (Frank). Trailer sandblasting by KE4QOV (Lewis), KE4REB (Dave), KD4GJM (Cheryl), and KE4VDL (Ric). Trailer painting by KE4MLH (Marty). Wheel bearing work by WA4ZUW (Carlton). Trailer lights installed by KE4VEL (Ric). Tower cleaning by AD4PZ (Joe), KE4VDI (Bev), WB4PQQ (Walter), AD4ZZ (Toshi), KE4JKM (Cheryl) and the illustrious W4NVF (Howie).

Come see it at Ham Radio 95. ♦



GARS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (SHORTER FORM)

Detach and Mail

Amateur Callsign: _____ Class: _____ Expires: ____/____/____ Date of Birth: ____/____/____
Name: _____ Home Phone: _____
Address: _____ Work-Phone: _____
City/State/Zip: _____ Fax-Phone: _____

Additional members for Family Memberships:

CALLSIGN:

CLASS (circle 1)

BIRTH DATE

ARRL Y/N

LIFE?Y/N

E A G T+ T N

____/____/____

[Y] [N]

[Y] [N]

E A G T+ T N

____/____/____

[Y] [N]

[Y] [N]

E A G T+ T N

____/____/____

[Y] [N]

[Y] [N]

Check Interests:

[] -Class instruction [] -Field Day operation [] -Repeater maintenance [] -GARS club booth staffing [] -Community events [] -Emergency [] -Administrative [] -Fund raisers
[] Other _____

Dues: April 1 to Sept 30

From Oct. 1 to Dec. 31:

From Jan 1 to March 31

Type of membership: [] -Individual ARRL Member?

Y/N

\$25.00 for Individual Memberships

\$12.50 for Individual Membership

\$6.25 for Individual Membership

[] -Family Life?

Y/N

\$35.00 for Family Memberships

\$17.50 for Family Memberships

\$8.75 for Family Memberships

Mail your completed application with check made out to GARS to: Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society, PO Box 88 Lilburn, Ga 30226



METRO AREA TEST SESSIONS

GARS Publishes Metro Area VE/VEC Exam Schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions.

1st Sunday - 2:00PM - W5YI-VEC Duane Reynolds, WB2YAD - 623-9803
Jackson EMC, 461 Swanson Road, Lawrenceville

1st Monday - 7:30PM - Delaine McCarthy, KM4FV - 993-9758
Roswell ARRL-VEC St Ann Catholic Church - 4905 Roswell Rd - Marietta

1st Saturday - 9:00AM - George White, KN4NG 361-6850
Clayton Co. Emergency Mgmt Bldg 7496 N. McDonough St. - Jonesboro

2nd Sundays - 3:00PM - Mark Swicord, KD4EYF - 975-1309
First Presbyterian Church 183 West Main Street, Cartersville

2nd Tuesday - 7:00PM - Wayne Taylor, WD4CCA 498-7759
Walton EMC 3645 - Lenora Church Rd, Snellville

2nd Saturday - 8:30AM - Stn Mtn CA-VEC Hal Martin, KI4RD - 978-9160
Stone Mountain Methodist Church - 5312 West Mountain St., Stone Mtn.

3rd Saturdays - 9:00AM - Larry Huff, WA4CQZ - 955-3171
Marietta First United Methodist Church 56 Whitlock Ave, Room 319

4th Sunday - 2:30PM - N Atlanta ARRL-VEC - John King, AB4GK - 381-5291
Episcopal Church of the Atonement - Highpoint Rd, Atlanta

4th Tuesday - 7:00PM QRV ARRL-VEC Shirley Durham, KR4KO - 949-9025
United Way Service Center - 6279 Fairburn Road, Douglasville, GA

4th Friday **GARS** W5YI-VEC - 7:00PM - St John Neumann Church
801 Tom Smith Rd, off Five Forks Trickum Rd, Lilburn
Howie Gould, W4NVF 921-8362 Headphones!

HAMFEST CALENDAR

Mar 18 - Kennehoochee Hamfest, Marietta, GA
Apr 1 - Hamfest, Warner Robbins, GA
Apr 7-9 - Ham Radio '95, Atlanta Ga
Apr 28-30 Dayton Hamvention, Dayton, OH

?=Date not confirmed. Several entries taken from SERA Journal.

Georgia locations are bold, Nearby locations are bold and underlined

METRO AREA NETS AND ROUNDTABLES

Mon	146.82-	8:00PM	ARC Net
Mon	147.21+	8:00PM	Conyers ARES Net t-162.2
* Mon	145.45-	8:00PM	ARES Net (Decatur)
* Mon	145.41-	8:30PM	MATPARC Net
* Tue	147.075+	8:00PM	Info Want Swap & Sell GARS
* Tue	147.075+	9:00PM	CW Practice Net - GARS
* Wed	147.075+	8:00PM	Gwinnett ARES Net
* Wed	145.41-	8:00PM	QCWA Net
Wed	146.655-	9:00PM	BSRG Net t-188.8
Thu	146.88-	8:00PM	Kennahoochie ARC
* Thu	147.225+	8:00PM	NE Ga ARC (1st Thurs = 9:30)
* Thu	147.15	8:00PM	simplex
* Thu	147.075+	9:00PM	CW Practice Net - GARS
Thu	145.41-	9:30PM	AMSAT
* Thu	Cable57	9:30PM	Amateur Television, ATV
Fri	146.76-	Midnight	Turnip Truck Net t-107.2
Sat	146.76-	Midnight	Turnip Truck Net t-107.2
* Sun	146.76-	7:00PM	Roundtable AMRC t-107.2
Daily	146.76-	Noon	Brown Bag Net t-107.2
Daily	146.88-	11:00PM	Late Nite Owl Net
Daily	146.79-	8:00PM	Sassafrass Mtn

* CONFIRMED This is a "living list" meaning it is constantly changing. If you know of additions or changes to it please contact the Editor.



P.O. Box 88
Lilburn, Ga 30226



p: 3801 sd: 4482 dues: 01-Apr-95

**GARS meeting will be at SOUTHERN SEAFOOD & STEAKS, (formerly Williams Seafood)
on Buford Highway on the 3rd Thursday, March 16th. Don't miss out! Be there.**